1	*2*	*3*	*4*
	UNION TERRITORIES		
26.	A & N Island	110.6	135.7
27.	Chandigarh	252.8	261.4
28.	D & N Haveli	256.3	205.3
29.	Daman and Diu	234.5	177.5
30.	Delhi	527.0	517.8
31.	Lakshadweep	73.3	41.7
32.	Pondicherry	274.3	274.8
	TOTAL (UTs)	476.5	468.9
	TOTAL (ALL-INDIA)	183.4	172.4

NOTE: Figures for 1997 are provisional.
District-wise information is not maintained at the Central level.
Rate of crime means number of cases per lakh of population.

Upgrading Fire Services

4648. SHRI YERRA NARAYAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to finance upgradation of fire services to meet the growing needs of the States;

(b) whether Government arranges equipments and assistance to State Governments for this purpose;

(c) whether any request from Andhra Pradesh for finance, equipments and training to upgrade fire services has been received; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to accede to the request of Andhra Pradesh in the matter of upgradation of fire services?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Tenth Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 8000.00 lakhs for the States for upgradation of their fire services. The Central Government also arranges loans through the General Insurance Corporation of India for development of State Fire Services, whenever such requests are received from the State Governments. The State Governments can buy the equipment they require from the assistance so provided.

(c) and (d) On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Tenth Finance Commission has allocated a sum of Rs. 400.00 lakhs for the State for upgradation of its fire services. Out of this, funds amounting to Rs. 105.00 lakhs have already been released—Rs. 60.00 lakhs during 1996-97 and Rs. 45.00 lakhs during 1997-98.

Article 355

4649. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2354 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Article 355 appearing under Part XVIII of Constitution deals with emergency provisions;

(b) if so, whether sending of Central teams to States to keep the Central Government aware of the on goings in the State for as the law and order situation as part of the interactions with the State an usual practice under Article 355;

(c) if so, the details of such practice with the different States of the country during the last 100 days; and

(d) if not, the nature of the exceptional circumstances prevailing in West Bengal to merit such an approach and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) It is true that article 355 figures in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India relating to Emergency provisions. However, the said article casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provsions of the Constitution of India.

(b) to (d) Some Hon'ble Members had expressed serious concern in the Lok Sabha on June 9, 1998 regarding the atrocities committed on women in West Bengal. It was stated that during the recent Panchayat elections several women candidates had been subjected to in human treatment including gangrape, and that several party workers had been killed during the election process. It was mentioned in the House that the death toll had gone up to 92. The Central Government's intervention was sought in this regard.

The Central Government had also received alarming reports relating to violence in connection with the Panchayat polls from other quarters. The reports received from the Government of West bengal in connection with this matter were incomplete. Hence, it was considered necessary to depute a Central team to West Bengal to assess the situation.

Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario in the country is an ongoing process in the Central Government. Central officials are deputed to the States in this connection, when considered necessary. The Central and State Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

Officials of the Central Government have visited Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, North-Eastern States, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in the recent past in connection with matters relating to law and order and internal security.

Article 355

4650. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred Question No. 2354 given in the Rajya Sabha dated 7th July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Article '355 appearing under Part XVIII of Constitution deals with the emergency provisions;

(b) whether nature of internal disturbance or the running of the State by Government of the State was not in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution in West Bengal was so much, so that it attracted the provisions of Article 355; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) It is true that article 355 figures in Part XVIII of the Constitution of India relating to Emergency provisions. However, the said article casts a duty on the Union to protect every State not only against external aggression but also internal disturbance and to ensure that the governemnt of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India.

(b) and (c) Some Hon'ble Members had expressed serious concern in the Lok Sabha on June 9, 1998 regarding the atrocities committed on women in West Bengal. It was stated that during the recent Panchayat elections several women candidates had been subjected to inhuman treatment, including gangrape, and that several party workers had been killed during the election process. It was